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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Election/Restriction

The applicant has canceled claims 7-12, 19-24, 38-50 and 57-102.

Claim Rejections—35 USC §102*Claims 1-5*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunert. Favorable reconsideration thereof is requested in light of the following.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that as long as the second engaging member is engaged with the first engaging member, electrical communication between the two electrical connectors is possible. In contrast, when the snap latch 40 (identified by the Examiner as the second engaging member) of Kunert is engaged with the round cross sectional member 48 (identified by the Examiner as the first engaging member), electrical communication between the electrical contacts 32 and 96 is not necessarily possible. In particular, the snap latch provides "initial alignment and retention means". (col. 4, lines 35-36). Subsequently, "...the data terminal is held securely within terminal cup 28 by a pivoting front panel 30 when vehicle dock 10 is in closed position, and wherein a steady electrical connection is made between the electrical contacts 96 of the data terminal 90 and electrical contacts 32 of vehicle dock 10 when data terminal 90 is inserted and locked by the user into vehicle dock 10." (col. 3, lines 54-60) Thus, Kunert teaches that a steady electrical connection arises when the pivoting

front panel 30 is closed. Without closing the front panel, the electrical connection is not steady or secured. Especially when the data terminal is used in a running vehicle, the snap latch alone does not provide steady electrical contact since the contacts 32 and 96 could separate. In contrast, the invention defined by claim 1 and described in the instant application provides that as long as the second engaging member is engaged with the first engaging member, electrical communication between the two electrical connectors is possible. Thus, favorable reconsideration of claim 1, and claims 2-5 that depend therefrom, is requested.

Claims 13-16 and 51-54

The Examiner has rejected claims 13-16 and 51-54 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunert. Favorable reconsideration thereof is requested in light of the following.

Claims 13 and 51 have been amended to include the limitation that as long as the first engaging member is engaged with the second engaging member, electrical communication between the two electrical connectors is possible. In contrast, when the snap latch 40 of Kunert is engaged with the round cross sectional member 48, electrical communication between the electrical contacts 32 and 96 is not necessarily possible. In particular, the snap latch provides "initial alignment and retention means". (col. 4, lines 35-36). Moreover, "...the data terminal is held securely within terminal cup 28 by a pivoting front panel 30 when vehicle dock 10 is in closed position, and wherein a steady electrical connection is made between the electrical contacts 96 of the data terminal 90

and electrical contacts 32 of vehicle dock 10 when data terminal 90 is inserted and locked by the user into vehicle dock 10." (col. 3, lines 54-60) Thus, Kunert teaches that a steady electrical connection arises when the pivoting front panel 30 is closed. Without closing the front panel, the electrical connection is not steady or secured. Especially when the data terminal is used in a running vehicle, the snap latch alone does not provide steady electrical contact since the contacts 32 and 96 could separate. In contrast, the invention defined by claims 13 and 51 and described in the instant application provides that as long as the second engaging member is engaged with the first engaging member, electrical communication between the two electrical connectors is possible. Thus, favorable reconsideration of claims 13 and 51, and claims 14-16 and 52-54 that respectively depend therefrom, is requested.

Claims 25-29 and 31-35

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-29 and 31-35 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunert. Favorable reconsideration thereof is requested in light of the following.

Claims 25 and 31 have been amended to include the limitation that as long as the first engaging member is engaged with the second engaging member, electrical communication between the two electrical connectors is possible. As detailed above, especially when the data terminal is used in a running vehicle, the snap latch of Kunert alone does not provide steady electrical contact since the contacts 32 and 96 could separate. In contrast, the invention defined by claims 25 and 31 and described in the

instant application provides that as long as the second engaging member is engaged with the first engaging member, electrical communication between the two electrical connectors is possible. Thus, favorable reconsideration of claims 25 and 31, and claims 26-29 and 32-35 that respectively depend therefrom, is requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 6, 17-18, 30, 36-37 and 55-56 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has opined that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in the current amendments, claims 6, 17-18, 30, 36-37 and 55-56 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Favorable reconsideration of these claims is requested.

New Claims

Claims 103-112

New claims 103-112 have been added that include the limitation that the first and second engaging members have complementary shapes to allow the first engaging member to be lowered onto the second engaging member to engage therewith so that the support member physically supports said display screen, while said first electrical

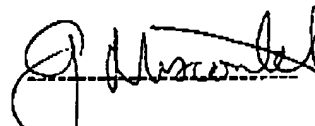
connector concurrently couples with said second electrical connector to permit electrical communication therebetween. This limitation is not taught in the patent of Kunert, the figures of which indicate that the snap latch 40 is engaged with the round cross sectional member 48 by a horizontal motion (see Figure 1A, for example). Note that the ability of the first engaging member to be lowered onto the second engaging member, as disclosed in claim 103 of the instant application, is advantageous since gravity can assist in the engagement of the first and second engaging members and can help in maintaining a secure engagement. Favorable consideration of these claims is requested.

Claims 113-122

New claims 113-122 have been added that recite a first engaging member that includes a first electrical connector. In contrast, neither element 40 nor element 48 of Kunert, which were identified by the Examiner as engaging members, includes the element 32 or the element 96, which were identified by the Examiner as electrical connectors. Therefore, favorable consideration of claim 113-122 is requested.

For the aforementioned reasons, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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